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## 1968, A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED VICTORIES OF SOUTH VIET NAM'S REVOLUTIONARY FORCES

South Viet Nam PLAF Command's Dec. 20, 1968 communique  
(Excerpt) \*

### VICTORIES IN ALL FIELDS

**I**n the military field, according to still incomplete figures, the revolutionary forces:

- inflicted on the enemy 630,000 casualties including more than 230,000 U.S. and satellite troops. Besides, hundreds of thousands of puppet troops deserted or were disbanded;
- wiped out or heavily decimated one brigade, 7 regiments and multi-battalion units, 187 battalions, 48 armour squadrons and over 750 U.S. satellite and puppet companies;
- shot down, destroyed on the ground or damaged 6,000 aircraft of various kinds;
- destroyed or damaged 13,500 military vehicles including more than 7,000 tanks and armoured cars;
- sank or set afire 1,000 vessels, combat launches or cargo ships, 40 of which with a displacement capacity of 10,000 tons or more;
- wrecked over 1,100 artillery pieces;
- set ablaze more than 700 ammunition storages or fuel dumps;
- blew up over 700 bridges;
- razed to the ground or forced the enemy out of 1,500 military sub-sectors and posts.

These achievements by

far surpass those in 1960 and 1967 put together. In particular, the number of U.S. troops wiped out in 1968 nearly equals that for the whole 1960-1967 period.

These figures spell out the great successes of the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people in a one-year period. They are all the more significant since they were recorded at a time when the enemy still had more than one million U.S. and puppet troops. What is remarkable is that all the crack units of the enemy have taken casualties of fifty per cent of their strength upward. All the cities and towns in South Viet Nam including Saigon, the last hide-out of the enemy, came under fire again and again.

Almost all of the enemy nerve organs from central to grassroot levels suffered heavy losses. All the vital communication lines of the enemy were repeatedly attacked or cut off.

All the three kinds of our armed forces—the regular army, the regional and guerrilla forces—have grown up in the course of the fighting and building. Their successes have been on the increase in size and in number on all battlefields, in the highland area, the plains as well as cities and towns. They have completely defeated the two-pronged "search-and-destroy" and "pacifi-

cation" plan of the enemy and foiled all their strategies and tactics as well as their large-scale operations.

On the political plane, the widespread uprisings of our people are a momentous and creative outcome of the fierce and dauntless progress of the South Viet Nam revolution. Tens of millions of our people have resolutely risen up to win back the right to be masters of the country.

The development supplies the most eloquent expression of the heroic stand and earnest aspiration of our entire people who had rather die than be enslaved and who prize independence and freedom more than anything else.

Our people's great uprisings are credited with the liberation and complete control of more than 1,000 additional hamlets. Over 2 million more people have been freed from the enemy's grip. Revolutionary power has been set up in many villages, districts and provinces, which politically has dealt a mortal blow at the U.S.-puppets, shattering their control by big chunks, and knocking off the "legal and constitutional" varnish of the puppet reactionary Thieu-Ky administration which, in fact, represents

(Continued page 2)

\* Sub-heads and emphases are ours. Ed.

## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGE

### TO THE AMERICAN FRIENDS WHO OPPOSE THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS' WAR OF AGGRESSION IN VIET NAM

**O**n the occasion of New Year 1969, I would like to extend to you my most cordial wishes for peace and happiness.

In the past year, the U.S. government had to stop unconditionally the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. That is a great victory common to the whole Vietnamese people, the progressive people in the United States and the peace-and-justice loving forces in the world.

However, the U.S. ruling circles still indulge in acts of aggression, and the security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. In South Viet Nam, they intensify the war of aggression, inflicting over half a million young Americans to massacre the civilian population, committing monstrous crimes. But the more obdurate the U.S. imperialists, the more the South Viet Nam and maintain in power their puppet forces. By so doing, they impair the interests of the United States, increase the number of young Americans sent to a needless death on the Viet Nam battlefield, and cause sufferings to many families in the world.

In the United States, the people on an honourable mission is to withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in accordance with the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, without any foreign interference.

The Vietnamese people, having gone through over twenty years of unscrupled war, deeply cherish peace, a peace in genuine independence and freedom. But so long as their country is subjected to aggression, they are determined to fight on till total victory. With the invincible strength of their national unity, and the warm support of their brothers and friends in all continents our people are sure to attain their objective: to liberate the South, to defend the North, to proceed to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace in Asia and the world.

I warmly hail the courageous struggle of our American friends whatever the colour of their skin, to demand that the U.S. government stop the aggressive war in Viet Nam; that is a struggle which, while supporting our people's resistance fight, defend the interests and honour of the American people and safeguard the life of their boys.

I wish you further successes in this just struggle.

Good health and good luck for the New Year.

HO CHI MINH

## NFL AND DRVN DELEGATIONS' JOINT COMMUNIQUE on U.S. Puppets' Holding Up Paris Conference

**T**he delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation led by Mr. Tran Bui Kiem and the delegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Minister Xuan Thuy to the quadripartite Paris Conference on Viet Nam on December 24 held talks at the seat of the delegation of the NFL. The two delegations published on December 25 the following joint communique:

"1. After U.S. President L. Johnson was compelled on October 31, 1968 to declare the unconditional cessation of bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN and, at the same time, proposed that the Paris conference on Viet Nam be held on November 6, 1968, the government of the DRVN and the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. respectively issued on November 2 and November 3, 1968, declarations reaffirming their position to resolutely

struggle for independence and freedom, and accepting to participate in the four-delegation Paris conference including the DRVN, the South Viet Nam N.F.L., the U.S. and the Saigon administration. On November 4, 1968, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the representative of the NFL came to Paris, ready to take part in the conference. But the Saigon administration, by means of tortuous arguments, refused to send its representatives to the conference on schedule. Confronted with this situation, the representatives of the DRVN and the NFL proposed to the representatives of the U.S. that the three delegations already present in Paris should start the conference and that the representatives of the Saigon administration would join in as soon as they arrived in Paris. The U.S., however, did not accept this proposal. Therefore after one month has

(Continued page 2)



The Viet Nam People's Army, founded on Dec. 22, 1944, is now 24 years old.  
Photo: An infantry unit on the move.

**Stasis.** Divergences have been growing between the U.S. people and the U.S. government, between different ruling circles and even among government officials of the U.S. The U.S. has become more and more isolated in the world and more alienated from even its allies apart from innumerable economic

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OVER these past 8 years, the South Vietnamese people, who have been resisting the **biggest army of aggression** history has ever known, have been winning tremendous victories.

in the period under review have made possible the emergence of a vast liberated zone stretching from the 17th parallel to the Ca Mau point over four-fifths of South Vietnam's territory with two-thirds of the population. In these liberated areas, a new

From Aug. 22 to Sept. 1, 1969, the people in the coastal provinces of Central Trung Bo launched simultaneous and widespread attacks, destroying 248 concentration areas and 1,000 "strategic hamlets" and

— From 1960 to 1962 more than 2 million out-

68, elementary classes have been opened for 42,000 pupils.

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(From General Vo Nguyen Giap's Speech at the ceremony commemorating the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army)

*U.S. bomb and mines have never succeeded in hampering the traffic of ferries over Nghe An Province rivers*

## South Viet Nam Liberated Areas Constantly Strengthened and Widened

From Aug. 22 to Sept. 20 people in the coastal plain of Central Trung Bo launched simultaneous and widespread attacks, destroying 248 concentration areas and "strategic hamlets" and

— From 1960 to 1968, more than 2 million out of

Western Nam Bo, there are at present 1,671 primary schools and 10 elementary schools with nearly 100,000 pupils. In Central Nam Bo, 1,250 new primary and elementary classes have been opened for 42,000 pupils.

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# THE VIETNAM AND THE WORLD

From May 17, 1964,  
to Dec. 13, 1968

News from LAOS

## 900 U.S. planes downed in Laos

THE U.S. has been for more than 4 years now committing its air force to a direct aggression against Laos and savage bombing on its territory. At the same time, it has been pushing Lao puppet troops to nibble at the liberated areas under the control of the Neo Lao Haksat and the patriotic nationalist forces. Thus the U.S. "special war" has been considerably escalated. Since early Nov. this year, the U.S. imperialists have been stepping up their air raids in Laos. Hundreds of sorties by jet planes of various kinds and tens of missions by B-52 superfortresses have been carried out daily, wantonly raining bombs over villages and towns in the liberated areas. In its Dec. 2, 1968, the "Baltimore Sun" disclosed that U.S. aircraft had "made in Laos 3,071 sorties in Sept. 1968, 4,749 in Oct., and 12,724 in Nov.; that the intensity of their activities had increased, probably with the agreement of the Lao "National Front". The U.S. B-52 bombers flew an average of 33 missions a day in Dec. 1968 against a total of 15 in the whole of 1967. UPI on Dec. 13 disclosed that the

United States had more than doubled its air raids over Laos since Nov. and up to 900 U.S. aircraft proves to be a direct aggression against Laos and savage bombing on its territory. At the same time, it has been pushing Lao puppet troops to nibble at the liberated areas under the control of the Neo Lao Haksat and the patriotic nationalist forces. Thus the U.S. "special war" has been considerably escalated. Since early Nov. this year, the U.S. imperialists have been stepping up their air raids in Laos. Hundreds of sorties by jet planes of various kinds and tens of missions by B-52 superfortresses have been carried out daily, wantonly raining bombs over villages and towns in the liberated areas. In its Dec. 2, 1968, the "Baltimore Sun" disclosed that U.S. aircraft had "made in Laos 3,071 sorties in Sept. 1968, 4,749 in Oct., and 12,724 in Nov.; that the intensity of their activities had increased, probably with the agreement of the Lao "National Front". The U.S. B-52 bombers flew an average of 33 missions a day in Dec. 1968 against a total of 15 in the whole of 1967. UPI on Dec. 13 disclosed that the

plane in Laos, said: "The downing or wrecking on the ground by the Lao patriotic forces and people of 900 U.S. aircraft proves to be a complete correctness of the line of people's war against the Neo Lao Haksat Central Committee and the unbending spirit of the Lao people fighting for independence and freedom". The Vietnamese people enthusiastically welcome the new success of the patriotic forces and people of Laos. They fully support the Political Programme of the Neo Lao Haksat which has laid down the correct basis for the settlement of the Lao problem. We resolutely demand that the U.S. stop immediately its bombardment of the liberated areas of Laos. The U.S. must strictly implement the 1962 Geneva Declaration of Intent and respect the sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of Laos and let the Lao people settle own internal affairs on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Declaration of Intent and people on the occasion of the downing of the 900th U.S.

## On the Pueblo Incident

## Korean People's Victory Hailed

In a commentary on Dec. 25, 1968, the Hanoi daily "Nhan Dan", central organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, hailed the decision of the DPRK Government regarding the U.S. ship *Pueblo* and its crew. The paper said: After Hanoi denies the U.S. Government at last had to acknowledge that its armed ship *Pueblo* had conducted espionage and hostile acts after intruding into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, General Gilbert H. Woodward on behalf of the U.S. Government signed apology to the DPRK Government on Dec. 23, 1968. Thus, all U.S. "menace" and diplomatic "pressure" have not been able to save the *Pueblo* from a stronger light on the obstinate and treacherous nature of the U.S. imperialists. Together with the world peoples, the paper concluded, the Vietnamese people warmly welcome the Korean people and their armed forces for having taught the U.S. a good lesson. The Vietnamese people consider this a most victory for the Korean people over the same enemy, and an incentive for the Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation.

## Why Did the NFL Secure the Control of Such An Extensive Area in South Viet Nam?

Editor's note: We reprint below the views of Dr. Benjamin Spock, the famous American pediatricist and staunch war resister, who received a five years' jail term last July for his participation in the movement against the Viet Nam war. These views are to be found in his book on Viet Nam published in New York in January 1968.

A night falls on the other side of the globe, the armed forces of the strongest nation in the world surrender 85 percent of the South Vietnamese countryside to the Viet Cong. What does this mean? "The military fails to resist in the country as safe at night," reports the New York Times (July 13, 1969), "not even the four-line, 15-mile expressway that links Saigon with Bien Hoa."

Only one out of every six Saigon-appointed hamlet chiefs feels safe enough in his own hamlet to stay overnight. At the end of a "search-and-destroy" operation, the Viet Cong slip back into the villages under cover of night.

justice and an independent life" than his own government. (New York Times, Sept. 1, 1965). U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge said much the same thing: "For years now in Southeast Asia, the only people who have been doing anything about the Viet Nam problem at the grass roots — to lift him up — have been the communists" (New York Times, Feb. 27, 1966). Ambassador Lodge was mistaken in implying that the Viet Cong is entirely made up of "the communists" — as the surveys reported by the New York Times make clear, most Viet Cong soldiers do not consider themselves communists. Even former Premier Ky, now Vice-President of South Viet Nam, admitted that the people of South Viet Nam support the Viet Cong more than the government in Viet Nam. Unlike the government in Saigon, which tolerates election fraud, favoritism, and workers, favoritism, and inflation, profligate and lack

of schooling except for the rich, the NFL is facing up to South Viet Nam's problems. Once the Viet Cong run the government troops out of the area, the NFL controls in the order of two-thirds of South Viet Nam. The NFL has begun to deal with the basic social and economic problems. The schools which they have established all over South Viet Nam are free, and a bright Vietnamese child will go as far as his intelligence and industriousness can carry him. Their land reform is straightforward: "To the tillers belong the soil." If a man and his family want a certain piece of land, it belongs to them.

## NFL and DRV/N Delegations' Joint Communique on U.S. Puppet's Holding Up Paris Conference

(Continued from page 1)

elaped without any result being achieved. 2. Not until December 8, 1968, under the pressure of the South Vietnamese people and of world public opinion, did the Saigon administration agree to Paris a delegation headed by the bellicose puppet Nguyen Cao Ky who has never failed to express his worship for Hitler that he considers the U.S. master. Then, the attitude of the Thieu-Ky-Huung administration has more and more proved to be a great obstacle to the holding of the conference. They have even availed themselves of the procedural discussions, usual and natural before any conference may begin, to hamper the conference. Both the Saigon administration and the U.S. have stuck to their absurd viewpoint of a "two-sided" conference — the U.S. and the Saigon administration on one side and the DRV/N and the South Viet Nam NFL on the other. The Saigon administration has refused to recognize the Front as a legitimate and equal party to the conference, thus trying to win the last struggle of the South Vietnamese people and refusing to admit the role of the South Viet Nam NFL, the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, the Thieu-Ky-Huung clique. In the Saigon administration, this is precisely why the U.S. and the Saigon administration have demanded that the seats of the four delegations be arranged along two sides, at a long rectangular table, thus infringing upon the sovereignty and jeopardizing security of the DRV/N. The above-mentioned facts prove that the U.S. has not yet renounced its scheme of aggression and is still trying to maintain the Saigon administration as an instrument for the furtherance of neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, and that the Thieu-Ky-Huung clique is still trying to cling to the U.S. aggression and to continue the war and to live on the people blood and sweat. 3. The Delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL to the Delegation of the DRV/N reaffirm their support of the DRV/N and towards the Paris conference and reaffirm that the position of the DRV/N is the only one in conformity with the fundamental principles of the Viet Nam problem is the one that the DRV/N reiterated on November 4, 1968. The five points on the political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem were announced on November 31, 1968, by the DRV/N.

### TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. But this is a first attempt and we are sure that your suggestions and help will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

## On the release of 3 American POW's PLAF Eastern Nam Bo Command Ready to Meet Again U.S. Representatives

A S earlier reported by Giai Phong Press Agency, the Command of the PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo on December 10 fixed the time and place for a meeting with the representatives of the Command of the U.S. forces in South Viet Nam to discuss the release of 3 American prisoners-of-war. On Dec. 28 the spokesman of the PLAF Eastern Nam Bo Command in a statement announced that they agreed to meet with the U.S. representatives at a second meeting with a view to discussing procedures concerning the release of the 3 American POW's. The statement emphasized, are anxious to see that the U.S. Command adopt a correct attitude at this new meeting so as to enable their prompt return to their homes. On Dec. 25, the U.S. Command sent their representatives to the agreed place, but those representatives refused to discuss the procedures required for the preparation of the release of the POW's. That is why the meeting failed to achieve any result.

## Saigon and Can Tho...

(Continued from page 2)

Thien Ky Huong clique, formation of a peace cabinet and serious talks with the NFL and the South Viet Nam war, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Every day, more than 500 people representing student associations, religious communities and trade unions gathered at KhanhQuang pagoda in Saigon. The participants voiced the unanimous view that the Saigon puppet administration, installed by the U.S. as a "regime rotten from top to bottom", like a "three-legged skirt which is worn out beyond repair". Many speakers pointed out that the delegation led by Ky to the Paris conference represented nobody, that it was "masterminded by foreigners" (i.e. the Americans) and that it had been sent to Paris only to sabotage the conference. They demanded the formation of a peace government which "really means to negotiate with the NFL" so as to bring real peace and independence to South Viet Nam. They also condemned the U.S. imperialist aggressors and demanded that the U.S. withdraw its troops and remove their military bases there. Many speakers of the U.S. interference, the Vietnamese people suffered destruction and death from the U.S. troops must be withdrawn from South Viet Nam and foreign military bases dismantled. South Viet Nam must have peace and independence and be made free from foreign influence. Every Vietnamese must work for these goals. All the representatives expressed approval and support for the just cause of the NFL. Some of them said, "The Front advocates the formation of a coalition government and neutrality for South Viet Nam. This position is unequivocal and widely known at home and abroad."

## Read: VIETNAMESE STUDIES No 18-19: South Viet Nam: Data and Prospects.

You will find articles on: — The essential characteristics of the South Vietnamese revolution; — The setting-up of the U.S.-Diem regime; — The period from 1954 to 1960; — The "special war" (1961-1963); — The four years of "total war" (1963-1968); — American crimes in Viet Nam; — The policy of the National Front for Liberation and the bases for a valid settlement.

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## MILITARY OPERATIONS

### HEAVY U.S. - PUPPET LOSSES IN 3 DAYS

(Dec. 21-Dec. 23)

- A position completely destroyed near Tay Ninh: 1 battalion and 2 companies wiped out, more than 600 men put out of action.
- Another puppet battalion completely wiped out East of Saigon.
- Two road convoys ambushed: 36 vehicles including 7 tanks and armoured troop carriers destroyed, 160 GI's killed or wounded and 8 aircraft brought down after 25 minutes' fighting near Tay Ninh; 22 lorries and 5 helicopters wrecked and some 100 GI's put out of action by PLAF artillery near the 17th parallel.
- Da Nang, Kontum and Cu Hanh (Pleiku) airfields heavily pounded in the same night (Dec. 22 to Dec. 23).

THE most remarkable event of the PLAF last week's military operations in South Viet Nam through news reports released by Gisi Phong Press Agency was undoubtedly the great annihilation battle of Ben Cau on the night of Dec. 21 to Dec. 22 last. A mixed U.S.-puppet position established in this district town, 70km Northwest of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, was razed and completely destroyed by the PLAF while defenders of nearby enemy positions were pinned down by artillery bombardments and guerrillas' harassing actions. At Ben Cau, a U.S. battalion and 2 puppet Ranger companies were completely wiped out, suffering more than 600 casualties. The enemy also sustained other losses including three 105mm howitzers, six 106.7mm heavy mortars, 4 military vehicles, the entire billet, tent or brick houses and casemates destroyed, a fuel dump burnt and many weapons seized.

On Dec. 17, at a point about 20km from Ben Cau, on Route 26 between Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng, a deadly ambush laid by the patriots cost the Americans 36 vehicles destroyed (among them 1 tank and 6 armoured troops carriers) and 100 GI's killed or wounded. In addition, 7 helicopters and 1 jet plane were downed in this 25 minute battle.

On the night of Dec. 20, at 10km East of Long Thanh, a district town located 28km east of Saigon another PLAF lightning attack wrote off the muster roll a puppet battalion comprising 3 companies and their commanding officers. Meanwhile, in Saigon itself, on the occasion of the anniversary of the NFL, many NFL flags appeared in the streets, especially in the 5th and 6th districts.

On December 22, in broad daylight, a puppet company was wiped out at about 20km East of Saigon and the NFL of Long Thanh. Further North in the Western Highlands, other enemy units were badly mauled. On Dec. 21, an enemy company stationed at Kong H' 20-g (13km

Southeast of Dakto and 100km South of Da Nang came under a PLAF artillery-infantry attack and had to abandon the post. On the nights of Dec. 22 and Dec. 23, heavy artillery bombardments were mounted against the airfield of Kontum (106km South of Da Nang) where 4 U.S. copters were destroyed, and that of Cu Hanh, near Pleiku, 106km South of the former, where 3 C-47 transport planes met with the same fate.

IN the Da Nang sector, Western news agencies reported a violent attack by the patriots against a mixed U.S. puppet position, 8km West of the City, on Dec. 21. The same sources said that U.S. marines and puppet rangers rushed into the rescue of the battered troops were intercepted. Enemy losses were given as heavy. On the night of Dec. 22, the big U.S. Da Nang airbase was again pounded and the HQ of the 1st Marine Air wing was hit by PLAF shells.

Gisi Phong Press Agency has just released the balance sheet of the wave of offensives that took place in this sector on the night of Dec. 15 (see our last issue) and resulted in 420 US-puppet casualties.

IN the Northernmost sector of South Viet Nam, near the DMZ and on Highway No. 9, an extraordinary feat was achieved on Dec. 23 by Liberation gunners who caught a whole US lorry convoy by surprise as it was delivering goods at a warehouse between Tan Lam and Sa Mau, close to a helicopter parking ground. A deluge of fire rained on the enemy who, within minutes, lost more than 100 GI's killed or wounded and 22 lorries, 5 puppet 2 fuel depots and some 20 tent and brick houses destroyed or burnt. A fire raged over the whole sector for hours. On the way back linking Cua Viet port to Dong Ha and the enemy outposts in this sector, on Dec. 16, 17,

20 and 21, 11 landingcraft of the LCU type with their cargoes and 1 patrol boat were sunk by the patriots.



PLAF men pushing the enemy on a river in the High-Plateaux

## Saigon and Can Tho: Big Demonstrations against Puppet Clique

REPORTS from Saigon said that on the night of Dec. 24 a large number of placard-carrying university and college students staged a street demonstration for restoration of peace, serious talks with the NFL, dismissal of the Thien-Ky-Huong regime; and formation of a peace government.

Starting from the Saigon Students' Headquarters, the demonstrators marched through many streets and were stopped by police barely 800 metres from the residence of

puppet chief Nguyen Van Thieu. Fierce clashes took place between the demonstrating students and suppressive cruel police who made about 100 arrests.

Panic-stricken, the Saigon mayoralty next day hurriedly made public a communique putting much emphasis on the fascist law 10-68 promulgated by the Thien Ky Huong administration in early Nov. This year, which threatens to bring demonstrators before a military tribunal in compliance with emergency proce-

the emergence of revolutionary power. The provincial revolutionary people's committee formally took office and read its declaration, strongly condemning the abominable crimes perpetrated by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the puppet administration.

"The entire people and armed forces of Quang Nam province", the declaration said, "express full confidence in, and all-out support for, the NFL, and undertake to address themselves to the historic task of liberating South Viet Nam, defending the North and achieving the ultimate reunification of the country".

dures, in a bid to intimidate the people of Saigon, Hue and other South Vietnamese cities,

FOLLOWING the more than 10,000 strong Dec. 4 demonstration, for 3 days in a row ending Dec. 10 thousands of people from all walks of life in Can Tho city held sit-ins during which they expressed their opposition to the obdurate and bellicose

(Continued page 7)